09/868,283

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this Request for Certificate of Correction is being deposited with the United States Postal Service this date, in an envelope addressed to Certificate of Correction Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 8-9-04 By: _____
Signature of Person Depositing Mail

Applicant:	Kruse et al.	Docket No.:	27153.2400
Patent No.:	6,758,956 B1	Art Unit:	1742
Issue Date::	July 6, 2004	Examiner:	W. Leader
Title:	METHOD FOR DARKENING A SUPERFICIAL LAYER WHICH CONTAINS ZINC AND WHICH IS OF A MATERIAL PIECE	Confirmation No.:	8549

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Certificate of Correction Branch
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Honorable Commissioner:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.323, Patentee hereby requests a Certificate of Correction be issued to correct an error noticed in the claims section, which Applicant's Attorney was responsible for.

CLAIMS:

14. The method according to claim ~~13~~ 3, characterized in that the soaking bath temperature is in the range of between 35 and 45°C and the current density (i) is in the range of between 0.1 and 0.15 A/cm^2.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office grant this Request and issue a Certificate of Correction correctly setting forth claim 14. A copy of Claim 14 as issued is enclosed for your reference.

Under the provisions of C.F.R. §§1.323 and 1.20(a), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit the fee in the amount of $100.00 for the Certificate of Correction to Deposit

Account No. 19-2814. If it is found that there is a deficiency or overage in the fee that is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit or credit Deposit Account No. 19-2814 and is asked to advise the undersigned accordingly, **for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached**.

If there are any questions or unresolved issues, the undersigned would welcome a telephone call to the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9 August 2004

By _____
Damon L. Boyd
Registration No. 44,552

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.
One Arizona Center
400 East Van Buren
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2202
Telephone: (602) 382-6337
Facsimile: (602) 382-6070

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE *PATENT*

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TRANSMITTAL

Certificate of Correction Branch
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached herewith is the following:

[X] Request for Certificate of Correction
[X] Copy of Patent Showing Claim 14 as Issued
[X] Acknowledgment Postcard

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee specifically authorized hereafter, or any **deficiency** in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith or concerning any paper filed hereafter, relative to this Application and the resulting Official document or credit any overpayment to Account No. 19-2814 **for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.**

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9 August 2004 By: _____
Damon L. Boyd, Reg. No. 44,552

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400 East Van Buren
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2202
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19 AUG 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO C.F.R. §1.8

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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COPY

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Date: 9 August 2004 By: _____
Damon L. Boyd, Reg. No. 44,552

Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.
One Arizona Center
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14. The method according to claim 13, characterized in that the soaking bath temperature is in the range of between 35 and 45° C. and the current density (i) is in the range of between 0.1 and 0.15 A/cm^2.

15. The method according to claim 13, characterized in that the soaking bath includes between 10 and 35 g/l NaOH and between 30 and 60 g/l $NaNO_3$ or $Na_2B_4O_7$.

16. The method according to claim 15, characterized in that the soaking bath includes between 25 and 35 g/l NaOH and between 40 and 50 g/l NaNO3 or $Na_2B_4O_7$.

17. The method according to claim 13, characterized in that the soaking bath includes between 10 and 15 g/l NaOH and between 10 and 60 c/l of an alkali salt selected from the group comprising phosphates, acetates, carbonates, sulphates, oxalates, citrates and borates of alkali metals.

18. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that, before the anodic oxidization, the material piece is subjected to a soaking treatment in an acid.

19. The method according to claim 18, characterized in that as the acid at least 0.5 M H_2SO_4 is used and the soaking treatment is carried out for a period of at least 10 seconds.

20. The method according to claim 18, characterized in that as the acid 2 M H_2SO_4 is used and the material piece is annealed after the soaking treatment for a period of about 1 hour at a temperature of about 200° C.

21. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that, after the anodic oxidization, the material piece is subjected to a soaking process in an acid.

22. The method according to claim 21, characterized in that as the acid a 10% CH_3COOH is used and the soaking treatment is carried out for a period of at least 30 seconds.

23. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the surface layer is provided having a material thickness of at least 8 μm.

24. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the surface layer includes at least 50% by weight of zinc.

25. The method according to claim 1, wherein, for the anodic oxidization, both electrodes are formed of a material piece having a surface layer including zinc.

* * * * *